

Daniel Canogar

"It is the artist who upsets the art"



Illustration: Ulysses

To talk about technological change and lost memory, the artist Daniel Canogar (Madrid, 1964) has installed his *Fluctuations* in the Sala Alcalá 31 in Madrid . Reflections between the real and the virtual world

What book does he have in his hands?

The Mountain of the Soul by Gao Xingjian. I just came back from China impacted.

Have you abandoned any book as impossible?

The one of Arianna Huffington on how to sleep better, *The Revolution of the Dream* . I fall asleep every time I read it ...

With which character would you like to have a coffee tomorrow?

I would have several questions to ask Walter Benjamin .

Remember the first book you read?

A book about frogs and toads. Already from the beginning I had a weakness for the essay.

How do you like to read, what are your reading habits: is it a tablet, paper, reading in the morning, at night ...?

The news on my tablet, the fiction on paper. By day journalism and essay, novel night. The night becomes a refuge for the imagination, and prepares me for the dream state of the dream.

Tell us about some cultural experience that changed the way you see life.

See the collection of pre-Columbian textiles at the Amano Museum in Lima. The secrets that hid these tissues seemed to reach the depths of the human being and his tireless search to symbolize the world. Since then, I think that what I do fundamentally is to create textiles, even if they are digital.

Is the art world a nebula without rules?

I never fully understand the rules of the art world. I feel that one day someone will come and give me all the keys to my profession, but I've been waiting a long time and nobody comes.

What causes fluctuations in the art world?

The artist is the one that provokes the fluctuations, the one that mobilizes and disrupts the system of the art world, which in general is very conservative.

Media-art to talk about technological change? How?

Technology is the biggest responsible for climate change, but it may be the only tool that helps us solve it. With the knife it is cut, with the scalpel it is cured.

What technology already in disuse would recover?

The mobile before the iPhone, without internet, Facebook, or Instagram. If you have an antenna to tune in, the better.

What artist would like to have a work at home?

A lighting installation by James Turrell , would have a special reserved room for this work. I would also settle for a Mark Rothko .

Do you care about the criticism? Is it useful for something?

Criticism tends to bother me, and that does not stop it from being important for me to read it. If that criticism has been made conscientiously, with a careful analysis of the work, it opens new paths for me to investigate. Unfortunately there is less and less art criticism and more chronicle of an exhibition copied from the press release.

Be a critic of the last exhibition you have seen.

William Kentridge in the Queen. The exhibition is magnificent, focusing mainly on the scenic side of the artist. But the staging of the exhibition is excessively fitted by the architecture of the museum.

Remember the movie you've seen more times?

Psycho of Hitchcock . I studied it in a seminary of cinema and psychoanalysis directed by Professor Jesús González Requena in the Complutense. We studied each plane, it changed my way of seeing cinema.

What book should the President of the Government urgently see?

On Tyranny : Twenty Lessons to learn from the twentieth century , by Timothy Snyder. In fact, I think it should be a must read for every politician of the 21st century.

Do you like Spain? Give us your reasons.

I like to work in Spain, it is a good place to develop work away from the noise of the big art centers. However, I am irritated by their inferiority complex and their inability to recognize their own values.